



DOVER GAS LIGHT

SUPERFUND SITE

Dover, Delaware

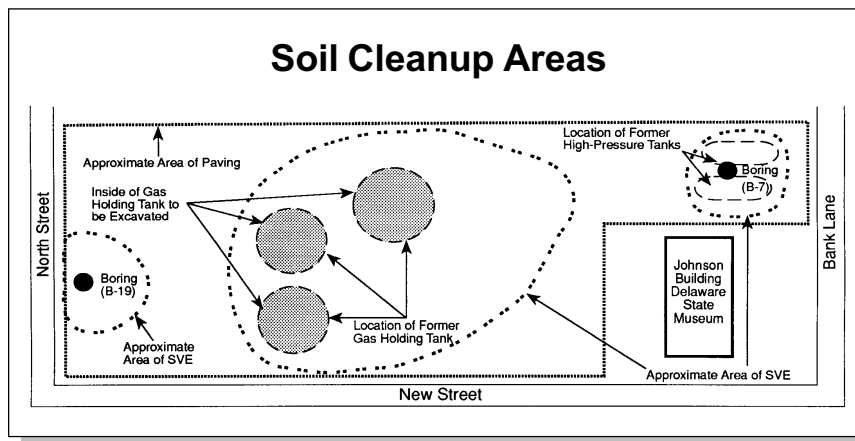
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III • Superfund Fact Sheet • September 1998

Cleanup Work Begins

Under oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), contractors for Chesapeake Utilities Corp. recently began work to prepare for cleanup activities at the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site in Dover, Delaware. Chesapeake is one of several potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the site and is paying for the cleanup.

Workers began preparing the site for cleanup work on August 26, 1998. You may have noticed workers erecting a fence and installing erosion control measures around the site. Other site work included transporting heavy equipment to the site, preparing the soil staging areas, and setting up office trailers for site operations.

EPA prepared this fact sheet to update you on upcoming work and tell you what to expect during cleanup activities at the site. □



Contaminated Soil to be Excavated from Gas Holders

Beginning in early October 1998, workers will excavate tar-like contaminated soils found in the bottom of three buried gas holders at the site. (See diagram above.) These gas holders were used to store gas during the plant's operation. During this work, approximately 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be removed and taken offsite to an approved treatment and disposal facility.



The soils will be trucked to Clean Earth, Inc. of New Castle, Delaware, and treated using a process called thermal desorption. This process heats

the soils to separate and recover the contaminants for disposal.

After all contaminated soil is removed from each gas holder, the walls and floor of the holder will be cleaned. Before excavating soil

from the next holder, the clean holder will be backfilled with cement-based fill to

a level approximately three feet below the final surface level. Three feet of clean soil will then be added to bring the fill up to the surface level.

Once all backfill work is complete, the excavated areas will be

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restored to the original grade. Some areas will be re-planted with vegetation, while the remaining areas will be covered with stone in preparation for the future parking lot. If any non-soil objects are recovered during the excavation work, these objects will be cleaned and retained for archaeological analysis. EPA expects the soil work to be complete in December 1998.

What Happens Next?

Design plans for a parking lot at the site are underway. Once the soil excavation is complete and EPA and DNREC approve the final design plans,

construction will begin on the parking lot. Construction of the parking lot will begin in the summer of 1999.

Other Cleanup Plans

In the summer of 1997, Chesapeake began design work for addressing contaminated soils outside of the gas holders. These soils will be treated using a technology called Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE). SVE utilizes a system of underground wells to pull contaminants out of the soil in the form of a vapor or gas. The vaporized contaminants are then collected and treated.

Chesapeake is currently finalizing the field work and design plans for the SVE system. Once EPA and DNREC review and approve the engineering blueprints and work plan, actual construction will begin. Construction of the SVE system is expected to start next summer.

This month, Chesapeake will also begin design work for the groundwater treatment system. EPA expects construction work associated with the groundwater cleanup to begin next summer as well. □

Additional Site Information is Available

EPA maintains a collection of site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File, at the Dover Public Library.

The Administrative Record File contains reports and other information about work at the Dover Gas Light Site. You can review and photocopy the information contained in the file during normal business hours.

Dover Public Library
45 South State Street
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 736-7030

You can also find information about the Dover Gas Light Site, EPA Region III, Superfund and other EPA programs by visiting EPA on the World Wide Web. EPA's address is:

www.epa.gov/region3

Information on Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) and other cleanup technologies is also available. To access this information, type in the following address:

<http://clu-in.com>

If you did not receive this fact sheet by mail and would like to be added to EPA's mailing list for the Dover Gas Light Site, please contact one of the EPA officials listed on page 4. If you call and reach an answering machine, please indicate that you are calling about the Dover Gas Light Site. □



What to Expect During Cleanup Work



There are several important aspects of the cleanup work of which residents should be aware. These aspects include the following:

Noticeable Odors

Excavating and exposing contaminated soil may result in odors that are noticeable to nearby residents or passersby. The odor you may smell will be similar to the smell of roofing tar. To minimize the amount of odors from the site, all open excavations will be covered at the end of the work day. To ensure the safety of workers and local residents, monitoring instruments will be used to measure air quality while work is in progress.

Onsite Alarm System

Airhorn signals will be installed around the perimeter of the site to notify workers in the event that operations should be halted. If you hear the airhorns, please be aware that these signals are for onsite personnel.

Parking/Pedestrian Traffic on New Street

Once excavation work begins, cars will be prohibited from parking on the site side of New Street. In addition, the sidewalk along the site on New Street will be fenced off. These restrictions will be in effect until all soil work is completed.

Truck Schedule and Traffic

Workers will haul contaminated soil from the site between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. EPA will arrange the schedule to minimize impacts to downtown rush hour traffic. However, there could be infrequent instances where trucks would need to arrive and/or depart the site outside of these hours.



EPA and DNREC are currently working out the routes for incoming and outgoing trucks during the soil removal work. Because many of the roads around the site are narrow, making it difficult for trucks to maneuver, final routes are still being determined.

Dust Controls

There are several ways to suppress dust from the work area, depending on the dust source. Prior to excavation or movement of soil, dry surfaces will be wetted down using a water truck. Dry materials that produce dust will be covered with tarps or coated with foam to prevent contaminated air particles from moving offsite. The soil loaded into the trucks will be covered with a tarpaulin and secured with bungy cords to prevent dust from escaping and rainwater from contacting the soil.



Onsite Monitoring

Air monitoring will be conducted daily at the site perimeter and in the area where work is in progress. Monitoring instruments will be used to detect and measure organic vapors and particle matter. If air emissions are detected at levels that exceed Federal and State air requirements, then work at the site will stop and will not proceed until the air emissions are remedied.

Decontaminating Site Equipment

All equipment and vehicles will be cleaned before leaving the site to prevent contaminated soil from being tracked offsite. Any equipment that cannot be properly decontaminated will remain onsite until adequate cleaning and/or safety measures can be instituted. ■

New Project Manager/Site Contacts

Jennifer Chan is EPA's new Remedial Project Manager at the Dover Gas Site. She will oversee all cleanup work by contractors at the site. If you have any questions on upcoming cleanup work, you can contact Jennifer or one of the other site officials listed below. This summer, EPA moved the Region III offices to a new location. Please note the new address and phone numbers listed below.

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INSIDE: Update on Cleanup Work at the Dover Gas Light Site



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